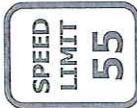


TYPES OF SPEED LIMITS

Regulatory Speed Limit Sign

This black and white sign shows the maximum speed that a motorist may travel under ideal conditions.



Advisory Speed Sign

This black and yellow speed sign is used to advise motorists of a comfortable speed to navigate certain situations. It is used with a warning sign. For instance, when traveling on a winding road, the curve warning sign would be used with an advisory speed sign.



SPECIAL TYPES OF SPEED ZONES

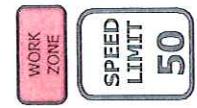
Speed Limits in School Zones

These can be established on roads in a school zone. This regulatory speed limit is in effect whenever children are present, such as before and after school or during recess. The school plate is black and yellow and the other signs are black and white.



Speed Limits in Work Zones

Work zone speed limits are short-term regulatory speed limits that are established for worker safety due to traffic in adjacent lanes. The work zone plate is black and orange, and the speed limit sign is black and white.



These black and white signs are used when a reduced speed is needed for driver safety.
FINES ARE DOUBLED IN WORK ZONES!



Advisory speed limits are used to identify safe speeds for specific conditions within a work zone. These black and orange signs are always used with warning signs.

www.lakecountyfl.gov

Some information in this brochure has been adapted from the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Traffic Information Program Series (TIPS), University of Florida Technology Transfer Center, and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Department of Public Works

437 Ardice Avenue
Eustis, Florida 32726
(352) 483-9000

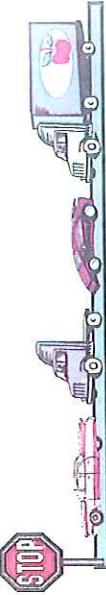
Traffic Engineering
(352) 483-9048



SPEED LIMIT ?

An Informative Brochure
Prepared by the
Lake County Public Works
Traffic Engineering

483-9048



What are the Legal Speed Limits?

Florida's speed regulations are based on Florida Statutes, Chapter 316, and also on the same Basic Speed Law that is used in all 50 states: "No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property." Speed laws are created for the protection of the public and the curbing of unreasonable behavior. To effectively enforce a law, the public must believe that the law is reasonable.

Statutory limits are based on the concept that uniform categories of highways can operate safely at certain preset maximum speeds under ideal conditions. Whether the speed limit is posted or unposted, drivers are required to reduce speed below these values for poor weather conditions, curves or hills, and potential hazards such as pedestrians.

How are Regulatory Speed Limits determined?

The Florida Department of Transportation criteria for setting speed zones are presented in the publication entitled *Speed Zoning for Highways, Roads, and Streets in Florida for Compliance with the Florida Statutes, Chapter 316*. This publication indicates "The 85th percentile speed is the speed at or below which 85 percent of the observed free flow vehicles are traveling." It also states that a speed limit should not differ from the 85th percentile speed by more than 3 mph and it shall not be more than 8 mph less.

traveling much faster or slower than this value can increase your chance of being in a crash.

Engineering judgement is an important tool. The traffic investigator must use knowledge of nationally accepted principles combined with experience to assign the safe speed.

Will lowering the speed limit reduce speeds?

No. Studies show that there is little change in the speed pattern after the posting of a speed limit. The driver is much more influenced by the roadway conditions.

Will lowering the speed limit reduce crash frequency?

No. Although lowering the speed limit is often seen as a cure-all in preventing crashes, this is not the case. Crashes are most often the result of driver inattention and driver error. However, if a posted speed limit is unrealistically low, it creates a greater speed variance (i.e. some drivers follow the speed limits while most drive the reasonable speed). This speed variance can contribute to crashes.

Why do we even have speed limits?

A uniform speed of vehicles in a traffic flow results in the safest operation. The posted speed limits can keep the traffic flowing smoothly, provided the majority of drivers find the speed limits reasonable. To best do this, the limits must be consistent throughout the state.

Speed limits on state and local roads are based on a thorough engineering and traffic investigation. The most important part of the traffic investigation is the speed study. When choosing a speed, drivers take many roadway environment factors into consideration. Therefore, the speed that the majority of people consider prudent is an important value. Data is collected by performing speed checks at selected locations on the roadway. A technical analysis is done on the results to determine the 85th percentile. This is the value indicating the speed at which most (85%) drivers are traveling. Experience has shown that

Who do I contact?

If you believe that there is a safety concern or an inappropriate speed limit posted, the person to contact depends on the type of road.

STATE & U.S. HIGHWAYS

For regulatory and advisory speed limits on the state highway system, you may contact the district traffic engineer at your FDOT district office.

LOCAL STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

For these roadways, you may contact your local road authority (County or City).

FOR SPEED LIMITS ON COUNTY ROADS

Upon identification of a speed problem or by citizen request, an engineering speed study is performed. If a posted speed limit change is required, the Board of County Commissioners can pass a resolution to post a speed limit based on a traffic engineering study.

PHONE NUMBERS:

FDOT (Leesburg)	315-3100
Lake County Traffic Operations	742-1766
Town of Astorula	742-7543
City of Clermont	394-3350
City of Eustis	357-2414
City of Fruitland Park	360-6795
City of Groveland	429-2141
City of Howey-in-the-Hills	324-2526
Town of Lady Lake	751-1525
City of Leesburg	728-9875
City of Maitland	429-4429
City of Minneola	394-5330
Town of Montverde	(407) 469-2681
City of Mount Dora	735-7151
City of Tavares	742-6222
City of Umatilla	669-3125

STOPPING DISTANCES

FOR WET AND DRY CONDITIONS

